



Remarks Prepared For Delivery

The Hon. Jovita Carranza
Administrator (A)
U.S. Small Business Administration

Delivered At The

CEDAR RAPIDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cedar Rapids, IA

July 1, 2008
1:00 PM

The U.S. Small Business Administration is here to help you rebuild your business.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of post-disaster physical and economic recovery loans. And right now we are mobilized to provide fast, responsive, and professional support so that homeowners, renters, businesses of **all** sizes and non-profit organizations can get the assistance they need to rebuild.

Disaster legislation

The SBA is continuously improving our Disaster Assistance program to better serve disaster victims today, and in the future.

I'm very excited to announce four important improvements in our disaster assistance program.

First, we increased the unsecured loan amount threshold by 40 percent – from \$10,000 to \$14,000. Moreover, this requirement will be **retroactive** to cover loans approved in disasters declared on or after the date the statute became effective.

Second, we expanded our Economic Injury Disaster Loans to include non profit organizations of all sizes as well as businesses.

Third, we increased the disaster loan cap from \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

Finally, we no longer require a borrower to make a supplemental payment for the first five years after repayment begins.

These improvements are in effect, and they will help SBA even more effectively assist businesses, non profits, homeowners, and renters in Iowa recover from the disasters.

Iowa Stats

SBA currently has 169 disaster assistance staff in Iowa.

Because of the significant impact on businesses in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding communities, On June 24, SBA established a Business Recovery Center in Cedar Rapids.

The Business Recovery Center provides many vital services, including:

- SBA disaster loans for businesses of all sizes
- Economic injury disaster loans for small businesses
- Access to government contracts and procurement
- Liaison to City of Cedar Rapids services

The SBA has currently issued more than 20,000 applications in Iowa. Of those, more than 15,000 were to homeowners and renters, and 4,486 were to businesses of all sizes.

SBA has already approved more than \$20 million in loans in Iowa. This is real money that will help victims rebuild their homes, their businesses, and their communities.